

EQUAL RIGHTS

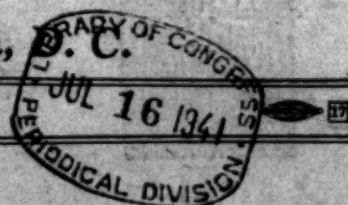
"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, Washington, D. C.

Vol. 27, No. 7

JULY, 1941



News From . . .

California, The State Of Gold

. . . Far To The West Away!

FROM Mrs. Amy C. Ransome, of Pasadena, California, state chairman of the N. W. P., on June 26th came the news of a resolution introduced by Assemblyman F. F. Houser of Alhambra during the final week of the State Legislature's deliberation. This resolution memorialized Congress "to make it possible for the states to consider the proposition that American women stand legally within the full protection of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States" by passing the Equal Rights Amendment. Commenting on the subject, Mrs. Ransome said: "This resolution is an expression of the weariness of California women who are waiting for dilatory Judiciary Committees in Congress to report out the Equal Rights amendment. We have been obliged to call upon our nearest representatives, our state legislators, in our efforts to break the 17-year blockade of our amendment. We are proud of Assemblyman Houser's initiative. It is readily understood when one recalls that his mother was an active campaigner for woman suffrage."

Mr. Houser's memorial follows:

Whereas, the federal suffrage amendment gave women merely the right to vote and did not remove age-long discriminations against them, which deprive them of certain political and civil rights and of equal

opportunity and protection in the industrial, business and professional world; and

Whereas, the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution providing that men and

women shall have equal rights throughout the United States would open the way to the removal of the sex discriminations in every State, would prevent State laws and Court interpretations in violation of equal rights, and would insure women the same protection of inalienable rights under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights now insured to men; and

Whereas, in the world struggle for freedom from totalitarian governments the Equal Rights Amendment would extend democratic principles and would give in the quickest and most effective way, full citizenship and opportunity to women, and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of men and women have asked that the Equal Rights Amendment be submitted by Congress to the States; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the Assembly of the California legislature call upon Congress to promptly

submit to the States the Equal Rights Amendment now pending in the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives; and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President and the Vice-President of the United States and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

OPINION OF ONE OF THE STATE'S LEADING CITIZENS

Allan C. Balch, President of the Board of Trustees of California Institute of Technology, expressed the following opinion:

"I believe that men and women should have equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. By interpretation the Courts have ruled women out of the full protection of the Constitution and robbed them of their full legal rights as persons and citizens.

"This injustice should be immediately corrected through the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

"In effect it will wipe out all of the old common law discriminations against women. It will prevent state legislatures from passing further legislative restrictions against women.

"As a matter of simple democratic justice this principle of equality for all before the law should no longer be denied to women who constitute approximately half of the citizens of this country."

The Natl. Fed. of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., at its biennial Convention, last week, in Los Angeles, California, endorsed the equal rights amendment (S. J. Res. 8) for the third time and rejected by an overwhelming majority the sex disqualification amendment (S. J. Res. 72).

Equal Rights



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Joint Income Tax Returns

The proposed 1942 revenue bill, to raise three and a half billion dollars, has a provision which has never been in the law before. This new plan is to compel husbands and wives to file a joint income tax return. It is estimated this will raise an additional three hundred million dollars.

According to the present law husband and wife can file separate returns. Each is liable for the entire tax, which can be paid by one or the other. In the bill as reported by the newspapers it is being made mandatory that husband and wife file a joint return. Under the proposed measure the tax will be pro-rated, according to the amount of the income each enjoys.

The National Woman's Party opposes this plan because it serves to accentuate the common law concept of the wife as the husband's chattel.

That such a law can now be imposed upon married persons is largely because the federal Constitution has been heretofore interpreted, as far as women are concerned, in the light of the common law.

The theory is advanced that the effect of this plan would be similar to Section 213 of the Economy Act of 1932, which, while written in terms of sex equality, to prevent two spouses both holding government jobs, fell most heavily upon the wife. Section 213 was really a blow at marriages and this plan we believe might be similar in its consequences—in that it might cause divorces and prevent marriages.

The N. Y. Times of July 8th is authority for the information that the Supreme Court, several years ago ruled, in an appeal from a Wisconsin law, that the State had no right to measure the tax on one person's property or income by reference to the property or income of another. The dissenting Justices Stone, Holmes and Brandeis held that a state had the right to go back to the old common law to tax, the common law being that the property of the wife belonged to the husband and that the husband was responsible for her debts.

This proves our contention above that we do not want this tax because it would revive a waning concept.

The Alice Paul Dinner

ONE of the most distinguished dinners ever given in Philadelphia by the National Woman's Party was that of June 16th, at the Women's City Club, honoring our beloved founder, Alice Paul. Notable guests came from New York, Washington, Wilmington, Baltimore and Harrisburg. At the Speakers' Table, besides Miss Paul, were Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Miss Marie Bickert, Vice-Chairman Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee; Mrs. Bessie Dobson Altemus, President of the Republican Women of Philadelphia; Mrs. Lois Buenzli, Pennsylvania Congressional Chairman N. W. P.; Dr. Martha Tracy, formerly dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, now Assistant Director of Public Health of Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary Stockton Brown, Vice-Chairman Pennsylvania N. W. P.; Mrs. Gustav Ketterer, past Legislative Chairman, Genl. Fed. of Women's Clubs and winner of the Gimbel Award. Local branches were represented by Dr. Arabel Clark, Chairman of the Philadelphia Branch; Mrs. Olive Donnelly, Chairman of the Delaware County Branch, and Mrs. Carroll Reed, Chairman of the Chester County Branch. Among the State Chairmen attending were Mrs. George Halsey, of Maryland; Miss Marie Lockwood, of Delaware, and Mrs. Edna C. Capewell, of New York. Mrs. Margaret Wood Patterson, of Harrisburg, and Mrs. Alma Ambrose, of the Eastern Regional Conference, were present. Mrs. Elizabeth Hatfield Schnabel, newly elected chairman of the Pennsylvania Branch, presided.

For many it was a home-coming. Two decades ago they had supported Miss Paul in her suffrage crusade. To those of younger years it was an inspiration, to carry on till equality is won. The "Lucretia Mott Amendment in Washington" was the theme of a speech by the new New York State Chairman, Mrs. Capewell. She told the story of the day by day lobby at the Capitol, making the picture vivid and thrilling and driving home to each member her responsibility in securing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Three hundred and fifty dollars for the Pennsylvania Branch was raised by Mrs. Capewell at the conclusion of the speech.

In her inimitable way Miss Paul was never more serious, more sincere, more serene, than when she sounded the key-note, "Equality for women with men the world over." "The chaotic condition proves that men have failed," she said. "It is a man's government in Europe and man destroys. But woman's instinct is to help mankind. Women were given no power in the Treaty of Versailles or in the League of Nations. But when a new league is formed, after this war ends, women will be there to have equal voice in determining what goes on. Do not forget that the United States is

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Remembered By Her Grandson

Recently in the City of Earlville, La Salle County, Ill., a plaque was made to be placed in Dodge Park reading: "City of Earlville, County of La Salle. Here in 1855 was formed the Earlville Suffrage Assn. with Mrs. Susan Hoxie Richardson, Presd. and Mrs. Octavia Grover, Sec. The Earlville Suffrage Assn. was the first local Woman's Suffrage Society organized in Ill., antedating the statewide Illinois Equal Suffrage Assn. by 14 years. Erected 1940." This information comes to us from Guy Richardson Radley, grandson of Mrs. Richardson. The Mayor of the City and other officials will take part in the dedication ceremonies.

A Woman's Right To Work

THE splendid work of women during the First World War became a matter of commonplace knowledge. Women in "men's jobs" carried out their tasks with efficiency and skill; they were praised and flattered. President Wilson, in addressing the Senate, in the autumn of the year 1918, declared the war could not have been fought successfully but for the services of women in every sphere, even "on the very skirts and edges of the battle itself." Yet, the war ended, the danger over, the old generalization about the disabilities of women and their proper "sphere" revived and we hear the hue and cry on all sides that the National Woman's Party, in their demand for sex equality, will spell the degeneration of the race.

Surely, there could be no more opportune time than the present to demolish entirely the prejudices already broken down by the dire need for woman's services during the war, and by the confidence in her ability which her efficient performance has earned from the employers of labor.

Growth of the Employment of Women

In a study of our economic development, it becomes clear that women have been, from the beginning of our history, an important factor in American industry. In the early days of the factory system they were an indispensable factor. Any theory, therefore, that women are a new element in our industrial life, or that they are doing "men's work," or that they have "driven out the men," is a theory unsupported by facts.

Work or Parasitism?

We must face the fact that it is no longer possible to impose on modern civilized women the obligation to live by the exercise of the functions of sex only. If all women could be relieved from the necessity of working, it would not mean progress, but the worst kind of retrogression. It would reduce all womankind to the level of the Harem woman.

The whole subject of the rights and wrongs of the industrial employment of married women is subordinate to the greater principle of woman's right to work, and women of the poor must work if they would live honestly, decently and morally, and the work in the factory and shop is no harder than that over washtub, the scrubbing brush, slop-pail and the needle—but, for some mysterious reason, men don't scramble for these jobs, so they are looked upon as "peculiarly fitted to the constitution of women," called woman's work and left undisturbed by law.

Woman's Right to Work

Work is not a duty, but a right. Society may not only claim service from the individual, but the individual may claim the right to function and contribute to the family resources in whatever manner may best suit the case and aptitude of that individual.

The prejudice against the work of women does not end in condemnation, but develops into deliberate attempts to exclude both married women from some employments and to penalize them in others. Those efforts to interfere with the most vital right a human being can possess, the right to earn its bread, are met by feminists of every nationality with the most unceasing and rigorous opposition. Throughout the ages women have been forced to labor at every variety of heavy and uncongenial task without reward. Now that they begin to choose their task, and claim its

reward, a chorus of protests hitherto unheard, rises on all sides.

Protective Laws Do Not Protect

To talk about special protection of women in industry, is to proceed with the assumption that special laws protect, but they do not and cannot.

To substitute the political boss for the industrial employer does not mean protection.

Samuel Gompers, Pres. of the A. F. of L., before the conference on Social Insurance, June, 1917, stated:

"To delegate control over their labor power to an outside agency takes away from the economic power of those wage earners and creates another agency for power. Whoever has control of this new agency acquires control over the worker. There is nothing to guarantee control over that agency to employees. It may also be controlled by employers."

The Awakening of Women

For woman is sculptress of the race. Architect of humanity. And every right and every privilege and every duty and responsibility, which belongs to humanity, belongs to women also.

And the awakening of women to claim their full share of civil, social, political, legal, professional and industrial rights augurs well for the possibilities of the generations to come and gives promise of the realization of newer and truer ideals of individual, national and international life.

In conclusion, let me say, if it is for the best interests of the community that workers should have special protection in industry, then there is no reason why these laws should not be constitutional for men and women.

"While women's entrance into industry may—especially if the male workers do not tackle the problem intelligently—at first have disastrous results, still, if she finally gains economic independence, and becomes the true equal and comrade of man, undreamed of beneficial results will accrue to both men and women."

—MARK STARR in "A Worker Looks At History."

*Laboring man and laboring woman
Have one glory and one shame,
Everything that's done inhuman
Injures both of them the same.*

JAMES RUSSEL LOWELL, *Bigelow Papers*.

MAUD DUVAL WILLIAMS.

Michigan

The annual meeting of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party was held at the Women's City Club of Detroit, May 16, 1941. Mrs. Phoebe C. Munnecke, well-known Detroit attorney and long a member of the National Woman's Party, was elected Chairman for the coming year. Miss Olive Hurlburt, chairman for the past six years, was toastmistress at the dinner and introduced the speaker, Mrs. Lorraine Blair, chairman of the Illinois Division, who delivered a very enlightening speech on "The Importance of Women."

Under the able leadership of Olive Hurlburt, the Michigan Branch has become an important entity in the National Woman's Party. One of its outstanding characteristics is its loyalty to the work of the whole organization. It has viewed the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as its most pressing business and always subordinates to this main objective, local state interests.

Relation Of Fair Labor Standards Act To Status Of Equal Rights Amendment

DOROTHY ASHBY MONCURE

(Member of Bars, Supreme Court of the United States; Courts of the District of Columbia; and Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.)

IT APPEARS that Congress in enacting the Fair Labor Standards and the Supreme Court in upholding the same have cleared the way for adoption and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

This result is due to the fact that the existence of such Act and its application to commerce has eliminated practically the only objection urged against adoption of the Amendment. That objection was the fear that protective maximum-hour and minimum-wage laws would not be possible under such Amendment. It was urged that such laws, applicable to women, were necessary to protect the health of women.

Wage-hour laws protecting the health of women workers alone are no longer feasible, if possible. The Federal wage-hour law changed the objective of wage-hour regulation. The primary objective is now the protection of "commerce." The protection afforded the health of the worker is now a secondary objective, a necessary incident that flows from the attainment of the primary objective.

In upholding the constitutionality of the Act in the *Darby Lumber* case, February, 1941, the Supreme Court stated that the Act is directed at the suppression of unfair competition. And stated further, that the evils aimed at by the Act are the spread of substandard labor conditions through use of facilities of interstate commerce for competition by goods produced under substandard labor conditions with those produced under the prescribed or better labor conditions, and the consequent dislocation of commerce itself caused by impairment or destruction of local business by competition made effective through interstate commerce.

In defining the extent of the application of the Act, the Court stated that Congress may choose the means reasonably adapted to the attainment of the permitted end, even though such means involve *control of intrastate activities*.

Back in the horse-and-buggy days, production and manufacture were judicially considered intrastate activities and as such subject to State regulation alone. Today with streamlined motor transportation by air, highway, and water, production and manufacture are held to so intimately affect interstate commerce as to be subject to Federal regulation in order to protect commerce.

The statutory words "industries in commerce" in the Fair Labor Standards Act were so broadly construed as to leave practically only the service industries subject to State regulation. The service industries include restaurants, beauty parlors, barber shops, etc. Practically all industries engaged in commerce, therefore, are subject to regulation under the Federal Act.

State wage-hour laws applicable only to women exist on the statute books today but the difficulty of administering such laws, with their existing variation from the Federal Act, will compel ultimate amendment to bring them into conformity with the Federal standard. Few, if any, will be enacted in the future

by the States. Furthermore, men engaged in the service industries, realizing that they are the only class of persons left unprotected by wage-hour regulation, may demand that they be included thereunder.

In any event, in the future if any issue or objection is raised as to whether protective wage-hour laws applicable to women only may exist under the Equal Rights Amendment, the proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment will have a full, complete, and adequate answer. The answer is that such laws are no longer feasible, if possible, when applied only to women because such limitation will not permit adequate protection to commerce. Such laws must apply to all workers engaged in industry, otherwise substandard labor conditions affecting men will permit a dislocation of commerce.

The first Federal wage-hour regulation was the National Industrial Recovery Act, enacted by Congress to aid the recovery of industry during the late economic depression. The Act was held unconstitutional not on the ground that the Federal government could not regulate wages and hours in industry but because the standards for administration were not sufficiently defined in the Act. The draftsmanship was defective. Thereafter, the Fair Labor Standards Act was enacted and its constitutionality has been upheld. Under its provisions, as aforesaid, wage-hour class legislation applicable to women alone is no longer possible, with exception of the service industries but no longer feasible in that connection.

From the standpoint of labor, as well as the objectives to be attained under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment will further such interests.

The proponents of the Amendment have never opposed adoption of wage-hour laws as such. They have consistently urged that such laws be applied to the industries to be regulated and not applied to regulation of women alone because such class legislation effected a prejudice against women that outweighed the claimed protective features of such laws. Today, the proponents of the Amendment see this principle, for which they have stood over a long period of years, actually adopted and put into effective practice as a supreme standard for wage-hour regulation.

It is a gratification to women to know that they will advance the status of labor in general in working for adoption and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

History shows that a change in social and economic conditions comes first before there is a corresponding change in the law. The social and economic change in the status of women since the adoption of the Constitution has become a reality. There has been an actual change in the status of women even with reference to war conditions. The names of men, women, and children in civil life appear as war casualties abroad equal in number only in degree to that of the armed forces. A woman cannot become a naturalized citizen of the United States if she entertains a known mental reservation that she will not fight for the United States. Women have all the burdens of citizen-

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HIGHLIGHTS—(Continued)

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MIDWEST
CONFERENCE OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, FEB. 21-23, 1941

MRS. CLARA M. KELLEY, *General Chairman*

Discriminations Against Women In The Ohio Law

By HELEN ROBBINS BITTERMANN

IN LAWS discriminating against women, Ohio is relatively more fortunate than many states.

The Married Woman's Bill, passed about 1850, gave married women the right to make wills, contracts, and otherwise manage their property as if they were unmarried. Of the remaining inequalities, four were removed under Governor Donahey's regime, when the 85th General Assembly (1923-4) passed bills drawn at the request of the National Woman's Party. These gave married women the same right as married men to choose a voting residence; made the mother's as well as the father's consent necessary to the marriage of a minor child; made the age of majority 21 for both sexes; and made mothers joint guardians with fathers of minor children, giving them equal rights with fathers to the children's services and earnings.

Aside from laws affecting working conditions, there remain a handful of inequalities in the Ohio law:

Girls may marry when 16, boys when 18. (*Throckmorton's Annotated Code*, sec. 11181').

The husband has the right to fix his domicile for all purposes, but the wife may fix hers only for the purpose of a suit for divorce or separation, or for voting purposes. Otherwise the husband determines the domicile. (sec. 7996).

The husband is liable for his wife's expenses, provided they are furnished on his credit. If the husband is unable to support himself and his wife, he can compel his wife to assist him so far as she is able. But otherwise the wife is not obligated to pay for the expenses of her own or her husband's support unless she agrees to do so by special contract. (secs. 7995, 7997, 8003; *Tille v. Finley*, 126 *Ohio Statutes* 578 (1933)).

The husband may be required to support his wife who has asked for separate maintenance for cause. The wife cannot be required to support her husband who may wish to live apart from her unless the husband asks for a divorce and is denied it (secs. 11997-99; *Albert v. Albert*, 7 *Ohio App.* 156 (1916)).

The surviving wife may be supported from the estate of the deceased husband for one year; but the husband may not be supported from the estate of the deceased wife (sec. 10509-74).

The husband, if married before he was 18, may have the marriage annulled for lack of age; the wife must be less than 16 in order to have an annulment for the same reason (sec. 11181; *Klinebell v. Hilton*, 25 *NP* (n. s.), 167 (1924)).

The father is primarily responsible for the support of children when living with the mother, although the mother must assist and her property is liable for debts for the family support if the father cannot satisfy the claim (sec. 7997).

Sons come of age at 21; daughters at 21 or upon marriage (sec. 10508-20, 10512-3).

Laws concerning the illegitimate child are unequal. The father legitimizes his illegitimate children by his marriage with their mother only if he specifically

acknowledges his paternity of the child. The mother is not required to prove or acknowledge the child as hers (sec. 10503-16).

Paternity of an illegitimate child may be established by proceedings in bastardy. Maternity of an illegitimate child may not be so established (secs. 12110-12134.)

Custody of an illegitimate child is indirectly recognized to be the mother's but the father's right to the custody under certain circumstances is recognized only as indicated (sec. 10512-11).

The law distinguishes between the duty of a father and a mother to support an illegitimate child, in that the mother's liability is in proportion to her ability (sec. 13008) while the father's is fixed in amount by the court for 16 years (secs. 1655, 12123, 13008).

An illegitimate child may not inherit from its father but inherits from the mother, through her (sec. 10503-14).

The father does not inherit from an illegitimate child whom he has not legitimized; but the mother does (sec. 10503-14).

These are the remaining inequalities in the Ohio law. In all probability, they do not work grave hardships on women, or we should hear more about them.

However, the economic inequalities in the Ohio law are matters of grave moment. In section 1008-1 of the *General Code*, there is the longest list of occupations prohibited to women in the United States. The section reads:

"The employment of females in the following occupations or capacities is hereby prohibited, to wit: as crossing watchman, section hand, express driver, moulder, bell hop, taxi driver, jitney driver, gas or electric meter reader, ticket seller, except between the hours of 6 o'clock A. M. and 10 o'clock P. M., as workers in blast furnaces, smelters, mines, quarries, except in the offices thereof, shoe shining parlors, bowling alleys, pool rooms, bar rooms and saloons or public drinking places which cater to male customers exclusively and in which substitutes for intoxicating liquors are sold or advertised for sale; in delivery service on wagons or automobiles, in operating freight or baggage elevators, in baggage handling, freight handling and trucking of any kind, or in employment requiring frequent or repeated lifting of weights over 25 pounds."

This section was passed at the instance of the American Federation of Labor in 1919. Ostensibly, it was designed to protect the morals of the working women of Ohio. But if we may judge from the date of passage and from our recent experience with attempted amendment to this section, the main reason back of the section was probably to provide jobs for returning disabled veterans.

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Woman's Viewpoint

By MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

OUR country is calling upon its women to aid in national defense. There is nothing that will not be asked of us if we go to war.

Even during emergency preparations we note that many barriers in hazardous industries are coming down—barriers were set up, in the first place, by laws supposed to "protect women and minors," even though such words sound like gibberish these days.

Each of us will be expected "to give all and to sacrifice all" in order that our kind of government may survive. Anyone who fears American women will not respond whole-heartedly to the plea doesn't know women.

At the same time, women are asking something of their country—an amendment to the Constitution giving them equal rights with men throughout the United States and in every place subject to its jurisdiction. They've been asking this boon for some time, and so far have met with stern and steadfast refusal.

The representatives who now cry for our help persistently reject the notion that women deserve full citizenship privileges. How they reconcile this attitude with their fulminations about freedom is a problem we can't figure out.

At the moment, our sex is employed in many armament industries. We work alongside men in every emergency; our sacrifices are as great as those of men, if not greater. Our contributions are equally important to national welfare.

Very well, then. What sort of democracy is this we are being asked to defend by those gentlemen who occupy seats of power? Does it extend only to male citizens? Does freedom of worship belong to all, while freedom of work is denied to the feminine half of the population?

There may be thousands of arguments against the passage of this amendment but they fall flat before the major issue: Those who pay taxes and sacrifice for democracy deserve the enjoyment of all its rights.

—The Columbus Citizen, May 29, 1941.

The Alice Paul Dinner

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the country where women have the most power, where they are given real representation in the set-up of political parties. We want equal representation throughout the world. That is the primary purpose of the World Woman's Party."

The dinner closed by the reading of a poem to Lucretia Mott, for whom the Equal Rights Amendment is named, by our toastmistress, Mrs. Schnabel, who is also its author.

TO LUCRETIA MOTT

*She held her torch so high,
It's light, reflected from the sky,
Made clear the way.
Made cloud and shadow disappear,
Turned sadness into song and cheer;
Made night noonday.*

*She held her torch so true;
Then passing, tossed it back to you,
Her fiery brand.
Will you take hold and lift it high,
To help some other passer-by to understand?*

*She held her torch so fine,
That we who follow in her line,
Will carry on.
Will see the light shine through the cloud;
Will onward press with banners proud,
Till we are gone.*

An Open Letter

LIAISON COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

406 Elm Tree Road Mansions
London, N. W. 8

To the Christian Science Monitor:

We, the International Organizations, whose signatures appear below, cooperating through the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, consider it timely to express briefly the aspirations as to the status of women held in common by women in many countries, some of whom can no longer speak for themselves.

When the League of Nations in 1937 set up an Expert Committee to study the question of the Status of Women throughout the world, it was in response to a widespread demand by women who felt that their position in the State was a matter of fundamental importance. Once more war has provided the opportunity for every community to recognize the vital part played by women. Even in countries where, in theory, women are treated as a class apart within the State with interests entirely domestic, in practice they are found to be indispensable in a far wider sphere.

We fully realize that it is impossible to foresee post-war conditions for all those citizens who are in any way involved in the present hostilities, but whatever these conditions may be, we desire to make plain that we have in no way, in no slightest degree, changed our conviction that the equalizing of the status of men and women is an essential element if those conditions are to satisfy the community. We, women and citizens, will work to obtain that equality.

Yours faithfully,

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND
EQUAL CITIZENSHIP
WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
WORLD UNION OF WOMEN FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCORD
WORLD'S WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION
ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES AND
MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD.

Seneca Falls Day—Saturday, July 19th

Saturday, July 19th, will mark the 93rd anniversary of the convention called in Seneca Falls by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to lay plans to free the women of this nation from the tyranny of the common law.

Today, as in 1848, it is necessary to reaffirm the resolutions adopted at Seneca Falls, with special emphasis on the following:

"RESOLVED, That the women of this country ought to be enlightened in regard to the laws under which they live, that they may no longer publish their degradation by declaring themselves satisfied with their present position, nor their ignorance, by asserting that they have all the rights they want."

Let our branches everywhere celebrate this day, July 19th, by memorializing both sub-Judiciary Committees to advance immediately the Equal Rights Amendment. Headquarters will celebrate with a tea and speaking in the garden.

Florida

In the State of Florida, we wish to report that during the session of the Legislature which has just ended, both success and failure have been recorded. We rejoice that the proposed minimum wage law for women *only* died in Committee. The time for such laws is passed. The Fair Labor Standards Act is the model for all intrastate laws in the future.

The model bill to successfully modernize Florida's married women's law failed of passage. This law has stood in need of revision for some thirty years. Based, as it is, on the common law of England, it is now an ancient remnant, since the common law has been revised throughout the English-speaking world and replaced by progressive legislation.

In Florida today, a married woman cannot manage property bought with her own earnings prior to her marriage. The law gives the management of it to her husband, who can mismanage it and dissipate it as he likes, and the law does not even give her the right of an accounting in Court. She cannot make a contract even for the protection of her property, unless the husband consents. She can, however, file a petition with the Court to be a Freedealer, pay a legal fee and furnish witnesses to prove that she still is competent to manage her own affairs, as she did the day before she was married. The Court has the right to grant or refuse her petition.

The Florida State Bar Association prepared and recommended an excellent substitute for the outmoded law of the past, and fine men and women throughout the state worked for its passage. This bill to emancipate Florida married women, upon a reconsideration in the Senate, was killed by a vote of nineteen to fourteen. This is, however, a small majority and is actually a triumph when compared with the indifference which has met the measure in the past. If Florida women will get busy NOW and work militantly for this measure, in two years we shall see the bill passed. The names of all the members who voted for, or against, the measure have been carefully recorded and the voters will be reminded at the next election.

ETHEL ERNEST MURRELL, *Florida State Chairman.*

Fair Labor Standards Act

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ship but are not entitled under the Constitution to full rights and privileges of citizenship. The necessity for enactment of the 19th Amendment, making it possible for women to vote, evidences the fact that they were not included as citizens in the Constitution when it was adopted.

Now that the change in the social and economic status of women has become a reality, a corresponding change in the constitutional law must necessarily follow.

And what more appropriate time to confer such rights than the present. The perfecting of our democracy by recognition of all citizens as equal with discrimination against none will serve to preserve, defend, and protect national and international democracy.

In the Darby Lumber case, the Supreme Court said "the statute is not objectionable because applied alike to men and women." Surely the Constitution would not be objectionable if applied alike to men and women.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

The New York Public Library has arranged an exhibit of books, manuscripts, prints, and other material relating to "Women in the Making of America." This will be found in Room 112 of the Library at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street.



The Bookshelf



WE PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE, A LIBRARIAN'S INTIMATE STORY OF THE UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION. By Edith Guerrier. Stanford University Press, Calif. \$2.50.

This interesting source of material on World War I was written by a member of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party and published by the Directors of the Hoover Library on War, Revolution, and Peace of Stanford University.

It will be especially interesting to readers of EQUAL RIGHTS because it illustrates one more instance of the initiative and executive ability of a woman and of the real contribution which women made to the winning of the last war. It shows how important in the life of the nation, and hence to the winning of any war, is the work of the average woman in the home.

Miss Guerrier was for many years the Director of Branch Libraries of the Boston Public Library. When war was declared in 1917, she went to Washington to get all available information on food conservation for the Boston Food Facts Bureau. Evidently her intelligent approach to the subject impressed those with whom she came in contact for she was asked to organize a Food Facts Library in Washington in connection with the Food Administration. This she did with great success, and through the libraries of the country brought to the people information about food conservation and food substitutes, which was invaluable.

Miss Guerrier writes well and entertainingly. She has great admiration for the work of Herbert Hoover as Food Administrator. Her book is doubly interesting at this time because of the critical food situation in Europe and in view of the work which undoubtedly lies ahead for the women of this country.

ALMA LUTZ.

Hahnemann College to Admit Women

Hahnemann Medical College will admit women students next year, for the first time in its 93-year history, it was announced yesterday.

Beginning in the fall, ten percent of the approximately 150 students admitted each term will be women.

"There is definitely a place for women in the sciences," said Dr. Von Rapp. "They have proven that. We are going to avail ourselves of the opportunity of aiding their medical careers."

"With more women in practice," he added, "it naturally will release more men for Government service. This position is in the spirit of the times, and in recognition of the wonderful work women are doing in Europe."

The matter of women students has been brought up intermittently before the board of trustees for several years, Dr. Von Rapp said, but only in recent months has the idea been seriously discussed, and the final decision was made Monday.

—Philadelphia Inquirer, Friday morning, May 23, 1941.

Alva Belmont House is now a "point of interest," in the Washington Hotel Associations publication THIS WEEK. The following paragraph appears:

"ALVA BELMONT HOUSE—Headquarters for the National Woman's Party, 144 B St., N. E. The site of the first house built in Washington, by the third Lord Baltimore on the grant of land given him by the King. The old Coach House and Kitchen are the original buildings. A beautiful garden is in the rear. Open to visitors from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m."

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

"OF MEN AND WOMEN"

THIS is not a book review. It is an appeal, yes, even a demand that every woman who reads this column read and re-read *Of Men and Women* by Pearl Buck (John Day Co., New York, \$2.).

It is a small book, so packed with food for thought that women who love liberty and ask for rights and responsibilities equal to those of men might well use it for a textbook to spur them on their way. It is not a book for women alone. Every man should read it, and every boy and girl in college. If the written word can accomplish anything, these words of Pearl Buck, straight from the heart and carrying the fire of conviction, should help mightily to clarify the confused thinking of American men and women and start them on the road toward better understanding and more intelligent cooperation.

Of Men and Women is the most searching, the most intelligent, the most stimulating analysis, that I have ever read, of the thoughts of men and women on the subject of woman and of the false traditions which hamper woman's development. It is filled with delightful humor which makes our foibles doubly ridiculous.

Like all women of vision, Pearl Buck sees the menace to women in the United States of Fascism, not because she believes we are headed toward Fascist government here, but because she recognizes that Fascist thinking in a large part of the world can pollute our thinking. She warns us to save ourselves before it is too late—to change our thinking about ourselves as women.

She points the way to the education of men and women for each other so that without antagonism and in congenial cooperation they shall share the work of the world and the building of a better civilization. She makes definite suggestions for this education which we would do well to heed.

Members of the National Woman's Party, working earnestly for the Equal Rights Amendment which will guarantee the legal operation of equal rights and hence equal responsibilities for men and women, recognize the need of this education and realize that in order to secure the adoption of this Amendment, both men and women must be educated to a new way of thinking about each other. When the Amendment is adopted, this education must continue, if we are to carry out the full purpose of our organization—"to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships."

If we had had this education in the past, the Equal Rights Amendment would not be necessary, for the traditions about women's legal status which shadow the interpretations of the Constitution would have melted away long before this.

Work for the Equal Rights Amendment is a step, and I believe a big step, in the education of men and women for each other. Pearl Buck recognizes that it is a step in the right direction for she has given the National Woman's Party a splendid endorsement of the Amendment.

Now, her *Of Men and Women* brings us new light and inspiration as we press on to our goal.

HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from page 61)

There are few jobs prohibited to females, as the law so biologically describes us, that women would fight to have. But the existence of 1008-1 is a constant temptation to add to the list. In the 92nd General Assembly, for example, a bill was introduced to prohibit the employment of women on punch presses. The cause as alleged was our morals. (!) But the root of the trouble came out in the hearing before the House Labor Committee. It seems that women thus employed receive from 5 to 8 per cent less wages than the men do and thus constitute a threat to the employment of men on punch presses. The bill died a natural death in committee, but we can look for it again sometime in the future.

With us always is the ubiquitous barmaids' bill. Introduced always at the instance of the Bartenders Union, it would prohibit females from "pouring beer from bottles, pouring whiskey from bottles, mixing drinks from behind the/a counter, or otherwise performing the functions of bartender." This again is to protect our morals. In fact, our morals are dragged over the trail every two years like a red herring. The literal-minded may wonder why it is bad for women's morals to pour whiskey from bottles but not to pour gin or rum therefrom. But to the jaundiced eye of one who has watched such proposed legislation through several legislatures, the real reason is apparent. Men bartenders get a minimum union wage of \$25 a week. Women who tended bar are, for the most part, glorified waitresses, who come on about 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning, make sandwiches, and mix occasional drinks. They get a waitress' wages. And there's the rub.

Now, the unions have a legitimate complaint. Unless women get equal pay with men for equal work, they constitute a constant threat to the employment of men. But the solution of the unions thus far has been to throw the women out of the jobs rather than to raise their wages to that of the men. The protection which unemployment affords to the morals of women is apparent only to the prejudiced eye of a union man who wants the woman's job. But the actual problem should be apparent to all women.

Unless women can achieve equal pay for equal work in this country, and quickly, they are going to find themselves in a very precarious situation in the working world. For example, a strike was recently called in a plate glass factory in New Jersey. The reason was that the men had been getting a union wage of 65 cents an hour. The employer was training women to do their work at 50 cents an hour. The men struck. And with reason.

It is not the purpose of this report to suggest panaceas for the problems of the working woman. But it must forcibly be called to the attention of working women that if they sell themselves below the market price, they are going to sell themselves out of jobs eventually. Similarly, if they permit themselves to be forced to work for more than the going wage in unskilled industries, they are going to be replaced by men. They have been, in Ohio. But that is, as Kipling said in another connection, a different story. This report must confine its attention to current problems and not to a relation of the sad experiences which women in Ohio have had with the wages and hours laws for women only.

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